CIA Love Traps Lured Diplomats

By Jack Anderson and Les Whitten

For years, the Central Intelligence Agency operated love traps in New York City and San Francisco, where foreign diplomats were lured by prostitutes in the pay of the CIA.

Through hidden one-way mirrors, CIA agents filmed the sexual adventures and later tried to blackmail the victims into becoming informants.

The stranger-than-fiction story of the blackmail operation is one of the secrets which the CIA frantically is trying to hide from congressional investigators. But we have uncovered the details and will be happy to furnish Congress with the evidence.

Significantly, the CIA used the old Bureau of Narcotics as a over for the bizarre sex setup. In both cities, narcotics agents rented and maintained adjoining efficiency apartments. It was their responsibility to make sure the blackmail apartment had a lived-in look and was kept stocked with food and liquor, so the victims wouldn't become suspicious.

In San Francisco, the blackmail apartment was opened in the late 1950s and closed about 1965. It was equipped only with bugging devices, not observation mirrors. The New York operation lasted from about 1960 to 1966.

On the East Coast, the dual efficiency apartments were located on the sixth floor of a high-rise apartment building in Greenwich Village. On the wall of the blackmail apartment was hung a large painting of two ships. But the painting was actually a one-way mirror.

On the other side of the wall, CIA agents could watch and film the action through the see-through painting. The painting was strategically placed so that it gave the CIA observers a full view of the sofa, which opened into a bed. A Japanese screen, implanted with microphones, provided the sound for the CIA's blackmail movies.

On the other side of the wall, the one-way mirror was hidden behind a painting with hinges. The agents merely would swing back the painting like cabinet door for the peep shows in the adjoining apartment.

To stage the shows, both male and female prostitutes with a variety of sexual skills were used. The CIA possibly got the idea from Russians, who long have used sex blackmail to entrap Westerners into spying for them.

Footnote: The narcs used the apartments when the CIA didn't need them. They would be advised to stay away on certain nights. The monthly rent for the dual Greenwich Village apartments was $160 each. The rent, food and liquor bills were paid out of a special checking account in a bank near the New York narcotics office. Our associate Bob Owens contacted a CIA spokesman who said the agency had "never heard of this."

Watch on Waste—Deep in the rugged Canadian backcountry of Labrador, the U.S. Strategic Air Command has maintained three rustic fishing lodges for vacationing military brass.

Through last August, the favored officers were served by guides who helped them choose lures and clean their fish, while cooks and other lackeys catered to their slightest whims. The tab, of course, was picked up by the taxpayers.

Originally established as survival training camps, the lodges were used for several years as vacation spas. Among the guests has been Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. George Brown.

Last year, $35,000 in salaries was spent to coddle the visiting bigwigs. Another $4,200 was paid out by the Strategic Air Command in maintenance costs. An Air Force spokesman pointed out, however, that the lodge guests paid for their own food.

The visiting VIPs, however, did not pay for their air transportation to the remote but spacious fishing lodges. They were shuttled from the SAC base at Goose Bay, Canada, on ancient planes called "Otters" and "Albatrosses." Incredibly, the SAC budget listed these planes as "strategic offensive aircraft."

These pontoon planes also were used to shuttle visitors and SAC personnel stationed at Goose Bay to Sand Hill, another Canadian lodge which is privately owned by a retired general.

The public is now rid of this tax burden. The Pentagon says it will not reopen the lodges next summer, but instead will turn them over to the Canadian government.

Footnote: While the Pentagon has economized on these Canadian lodges at No Name River and Minipi Lake, the brass still has taxpayer-supported fishing lodges in Alaska. Congress has now asked the General Accounting Office to look into all such military vacation spots.

Tripple-Dipper—Able John Molinari, who collects nearly $20,000 a year from the taxpayers as head of the state office of Sen. Harrison Williams (D-N.J.) switches hats to pick up two other paychecks.

At Western Electric, he is paid a part-time rate-based on hours worked, and gets a paid, five-week vacation plus pay for holidays. At the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, he collected about $400 a month as the financial secretary.

Molinary, who has worked in the Senate for 14 years, says he sees "No conflict" among his three highly diverse jobs. "I call the shots as I see them."

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